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Chairman: Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/46/3 and Add.1, A/46/467, 520 and 555)

1. Mr. VAN DER HEIJDEN (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the Twelve member States of the European Community, drew attention to Economic and Social Council decision 91/219, entitled "Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations". Since that Committee met every two years, it appeared worthwhile to maintain some sort of continuity by examining its activities at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. In the view of the member States of the Community particular attention should be given to that Committee, which performed a unique and important function defined in the Charter of the Unit d Nations itself.

2. There were now almost a thousand organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council under Article 71 of the Charter. Those organizations attended public meetings of various United Nations bodies and, in accordance with the rules established by the Council in its resolution 1296 (XLIV), made oral statements and submitted documents. Since their knowledge and expertise covered a wide range of fields, those communications and statements were extremely useful, particularly in the preparation of international instruments. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also contributed by drawing the attention of Governments and the general public to situations requiring the attention of the United Nations.

3. Outside the United Nations system, NGOs participated in the international promotion of values and standards recognized by the United Nations. Some of them were going even further and were developing new forms of cooperation with the Secretariat and contributing to the implementation of the Organization's plans and programmes. For Governments, they were now fully-fledged partners on the international scene and in many cases could not be replaced either by Governments or by the United Nations.

4. Within the United Nations system, the participation of the NGOs, particularly those in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, was essential for a number of bodies and standing committees, and in particular the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Twelve therefore paid tribute to the work of those organizations, and welcomed the efforts recently made by the Secretariat to facilitate the circulation of their documents.

5. The Twelve were strongly of the view that NGOs should play a key role in the preparation and proceedings of such international meetings as the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and the 1995 World Conference on Women. They took the opportunity to recall that NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council enjoyed rights and privileges which should be respected in the preparation of any intergovernmental meeting, and that they

(Mr. Van Der Heijden, Netherlands)

had been carefully scrutinized by the NGO Committee. It was for that reason that the Twelve considered that the NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should be able to participate on an equal footing in all preparatory committees, without prejudice to the right of those NGOs which were not in consultative status to ask to participate in international conferences.

6. At its most recent meeting, as was reflected in document E/1991/20, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to establish an open-ended Working Group to prepare draft guidelines, of a technical nature, aimed at assisting the Committee to process the growing number of applications for consultative status presented by NGOs. The Committee had decided, in accordance with its current practice, to take its decisions by consensus. It had also stressed that its mandate, like that of the Working Group, was based exclusively on Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Nevertheless, the Committee had thought it useful to establish guidelines which would facilitate the application of objective criteria in a uniform manner, without subjective or political considerations.

7. It was the firm conviction of the Twelve that there was room for significant improvement in the Committee's practice. The Working Group had already held two fruitful meetings, and was to meet again in order to communicate its recommendations to the Committee before 1 June 1992. The Twelve would follow with particular attention the outcome of its work.

8. The Working Group's mandate was not only related to the activities of the Committee. In accordance with document E/1991/20, the guidelines should also address the problems of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Secretariat. In 1946 there has been 40 NGOs with consultative status, in 1968, the number had grown to 377 and in 1991, to 930. In addition, links between the NGOs and the Secretariat had become closer, documentation was increasing and the number of requests for admission to consultative status was growing constantly, thus the workload of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit was increasing tremendously without a corresponding increase in its resources.

9. In their statement at the Council's first regular session of 1991, the Twelve had endorsed the views of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which the Council had taken note of in its decision 91/219, recommending an urgent review of the situation in respect of the staff resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit and urging a special effort on its behalf during the preparation of the Organization's budget for 1992-1993. They hoped that the issue would be duly considered by the Fifth Committee.

10. Fully convinced of the valuable contribution that the NGOs were making to the United Nations and aware of the difficult situation in which the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit found itself, the Twelve were ready to

(Mr. Van Der Heijden, Netherlands)

support any initiative aimed at raising the issue at the next session of the Economic and Social Council, and hoped that the General Assembly would take a decision in that regard.

11. Ms. ARGUILLAS (Philippines) stressed the importance her country had always attached to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs and the interest it took in the process of restructuring which had been undertaken in order to enable the United Nations to meet the needs of Member States more effectively, and in particular the needs of the developing countries in the social and economic fields. In that connection, it welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/264.

12. In considering the Economic and Social Council's report (A/46/3), her delegation wished to focus on the question of non-governmental organizations. The Constitution of the Philippines (in art. 2, sect. 23) recognized the important contribution made by NGOs in promoting the welfare of nations. At the international level, the importance of NGOs and their consultative role were also acknowledged in Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations and in resolution 1296 (XLIV) of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 23 May 1968. The number of those organizations, and their potential contribution, had increased considerably. Her delegation considered that, through their knowledge and expertise, NGOs could greatly assist the United Nations in formulating its plans and programmes. In the next few years, NGOs would have the opportunity to participate in United Nations activities, in particular within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, the 1994 International Meeting on Population and the 1995 World Conference on Women. Clearly, cooperation between United Nations bodies and the NGOs had gone beyond what the Council had envisaged in its resolution 1296 (XLIV).

13. The Philippines was one of the 19 members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the only permanent intergovernmental body concerned with NGOs within the United Nations system. In that connection, it wished to pay tribute to the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs for the quality of its work and to stress the need for an urgent review of the situation posed by its lack of staff resources. The Unit had only two Professional and two General Service staff members, the same number it had had in 1946, when there were only 46 NGOs with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In 1991, the staff were now being called upon to meet the needs of 930 NGOs and to provide services for numerous meetings.

14. Moreover, the Philippine delegation was concerned by the increasing tendency of intergovernmental organs, the subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat to grant to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which had not received prior recognition from the United

(Ms. Arguillas, Philippines)

Nations the rights and privileges of organizations with consultative status. In terms of the forthcoming international conferences, uniform criteria should be adopted regarding the participation of NGOs in the activities of the United Nations.

15. Given the ongoing revitalization of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs, it was imperative to consider the dynamic consultative relationship between the Council and NGOs. The Philippines would therefore support any draft resolution which called upon the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its next session, the measures to be taken in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the NGO Unit.

16. Mrs. SUNDBOM (Sweden), referring to the issue of NGOs and the role and resources of the NGO Unit within the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), recalled, as had previous speakers, that the level of the Unit's resources were still the same as they had been in 1946, whereas the number of NGOs had increased considerably, along with the volume of documentation and the workload. She could only welcome the expanded role of the non-governmental organizations, which had proved to be highly efficient and of crucial importance, particularly in the area of international development cooperation. The competence of the NGOs was evident both in the implementation and realization of goals and principles and when it came to executing concrete missions in extremely diverse fields, not least social affairs. Her delegation therefore believed it would be useful if the Committee could give its attention to the difficult situation of the NGO Unit; the latter's excellent work, which it managed to carry out with minimal manpower, could not be too highly praised. She fully subscribed to the recommendation made by the NGO Committee in its report (E/1991/20) that the Unit's position be urgently reviewed.

17. Mr. KOLAROV (Bulgaria) said that a considerable number of NGOs were playing an increasing role in the period of transformation which many regions of the world were currently undergoing. In Bulgaria, national and international NGOs were involved in all areas of the political, economic and social life of the country, where the active participation of public opinion was seen as a prerequisite for the success of the changes under way. In that respect, NGOs were very often called upon to compensate for the shortcomings of State structures.

18. NGOs played a particularly active role in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Human Rights and other subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council and were also an important source of information and skills for the United Nations. NGOs participation in important international events, such as the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, could contribute to their success. Bulgaria believed that the international community should adhere to established rules and practices when determining the specific procedures for such participation.

(Mr. Kolarov, Bulgaria)

19. Bulgaria welcomed the action taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which had led, inter alia to an increase in the number of organizations in consultative status. It particularly welcomed the constructive spirit which had marked the Committee's session in 1991 and which had made possible a vast increase in efficiency. Bulgaria fully supported the recommendations contained in the report submitted by the Committee to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991 (E/1991/20).

20. Bulgaria also welcomed the action of the NGO Unit which, despite its extremely limited resources, had been able to assist both the Committee and NGOs themselves. However, the documents produced by the NGO Unit for the Committee, and the services which it provided pursuant to resolution 1296 (XLIV) of the Economic and Social Council, were increasing without any parallel increase in the resources allocated for that purpose. Bulgaria consequently drew attention to paragraph 44 of the Committee's report concerning the staff resources of the NGO Unit. The matter should receive priority consideration so that a solution might be found as soon as possible.

21. Mr. PARSHIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation fully shared the views expressed by the previous speakers.

AGENDA ITEM 96: NARCOTIC DRUGS (A/46/3, chap. VI, sect. E, A/46/222, 264, 336, 338, 480 and 511)

22. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to begin its consideration of agenda item 96 on narcotic drugs, and drew attention to the reports of the Secretary-General on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking (A/46/338), on measures taken to implement General Assembly resolution 45/179 on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control (A/46/480), and on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking (A/46/511), and to three letters addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/222, A/46/264 and A/46/336).

23. Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme), focusing on document A/46/480 concerning the measures taken to enhance the structure to control drugs pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/179, also drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.5/46/23 concerning the administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP). His first task as Executive Director of UNIDCP had been organizational, consisting of restructuring and integrating existing services. His guiding principles had been derived from international drug control treaties and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The mandate entrusted to UNIDCP by the General Assembly was one of the broadest ever accorded to a United Nations programme. The UNIDCP fulfilled three basic functions in that it was simultaneously a meeting place, a focal point for performing analytical and normative work and a mechanism for coordinating and directing all drug control

(Mr. Giacomelli)

activities. Those diverse responsibilities were set forth in the various treaties and instruments on international drug control, such as the 1990 Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the 1987 Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the United Nations system-wide action plan and the 1990 London Declaration.

24. In adopting resolution 45/179, the General Assembly had recognized that only a coordinated effort on a world-wide scale could lead to effective control of the drug problem. With the end of the cold war it was generally accepted that all nations had a collective responsibility to deal with the drug menace, and there seemed to be a greater sense of urgency about the problem and an awareness of the need for multilateral cooperation.

25. Specifically, UNIDCP collected information and provided expertise in all aspects of international drug control; promoted the application of international drug control instruments; carried out preventive action and anticipated crisis situations; provided technical assistance to Governments; provided technical cooperation in the various fields of drug abuse control; assisted Governments in the development of regional and subregional initiatives; and, in particular, coordinated and provided guidelines for all drug control activities. The last-mentioned function was important since UNIDCP did not, on its own, have the financial resources to confront the omnipresent drug problem. It therefore sought to encourage the inclusion of the "drug control" dimension in the development projects of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional development banks and other major funding institutions. That new approach adopted by UNIDCP should help United Nations organizations to take drug control into account in setting their priorities, allocating resources and formulating and implementing their plans and programmes.

26. From the beginning, the Programme had promoted a coordinated approach at the international level. Thus, at its first regular session in 1991, the Administrative Committee on Coordination had admitted the Executive Director of UNIDCP to participate fully in its work. At a special Inter-Agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of Drug Abuse Control, new arrangements for coordination among the agencies had been concluded with United Nations organizations. Outside the common system, contacts had been strengthened with other multilateral institutions such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Customs Cooperation Council. With a view to the optimal utilization of the resources devoted to international drug control, UNIDCP also was in contact with international funding institutions such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, with a view to ensuring that drug control became a feature in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of their multilateral assistance projects, The Programme had also established a Policy Planning and Evaluation Unit with a view to improving

(Mr. Giacomelli)

efficiency in its management. That office, inter alia, submitted recommendations to the Executive Director on ways and means of improving project formulation, delivery and management.

27. Since December 1990, 18 States had become Parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, bringing the total number of States Parties to the Convention to 49. There was also a noticeable trend among States towards ratifying, simultaneously with the 1988 Convention, the 1972 Protocol to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Nevertheless, the Programme planned to do more to promote the ratification of those instruments, since the establishment of a legislative framework was an essential tool in the fight against drug abuse. It was heartening to note in that regard that UNIDCP's assistance in bringing domestic legislation in line with international treaty provisions was also being sought at the regional level, most notably in Africa and Central Europe.

28. In Latin America, UNIDCP had continued to help the Andean Parliament to harmonize its existing legislation and to create a "judicial space" in the Andean region. Within the framework of the Acuerdo de Cartagena, and relying on the technical expertise of the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT), studies focusing in particular in the marketing of substitute crops had been undertaken. In Peru, an experiment was envisaged which, if successful, could be of interest at the regional level; it involved having UNIDCP oversee the implementation of agreements between the Government and coca-growing farmers.

29. In the Caribbean, UNIDCP was concentrating its efforts on drug demand reduction, particularly on prevention, with programmes undertaken - in some cases with UNESCO - in schools, communities and the media. In the law enforcement sector, a telecommunications network had been established with INTERPOL. That network, which linked 28 countries, was intended to facilitate contact between drug control squads. A regional training programme for customs officers had been launched in 1991 with the involvement of the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Conference. In addition, UNIDCP planned to establish a regional forensic laboratory, as well as a regional drug law enforcement training centre to be located in Jamaica.

30. The regional strategy for Africa involved the development of programmes structured around four subregional groupings. Thus, training courses for professionals in the field of demand reduction would begin the following month in six countries in Central Africa. In southern and East Africa, a workshop held in February 1991 had led to the negotiation of modern extradition treaties. UNIDCP soon would be organizing training courses in Nairobi for national administrators in charge of controlling the licit movement of drugs, in which 23 countries would participate. In West Africa, legal experts had assisted four Governments in preparing laws on pharmaceuticals based on models prepard by UNIDCP.

(Mr. Giacomelli)

31. In Europe, progress had been made in the development of a computerized information network for the Balkan region. Drug law enforcement projects were in preparation in Hungary and Turkey and, following technical missions, in Greece, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. The Programme was also considering a pilot project along the so-called "Balkan route", a regional drug laboratory and legal assistance requested by Balkan and Eastern European countries.

32. In South-East Asia, encouraging results had been obtained in the context of joint projects between Myanmar and Thailand and between Myanmar and China focusing on three areas: law enforcement, demand reduction and crop substitution. Preliminary discussions also had been held with the Laotian Government. In South-West Asia, a UNIDCP mission to Iran and Pakistan in July 1991 had led to a joint meeting of officials from the two countries which had explored means of improving communications on drug control matters at the national and local operational levels.

33. With regard to the resources of UNIDCP, in 1991 the Programme's operational activities budget would amount to $US 71 million covering 150 projects in 70 countries, as follows: 24 per cent for preventive and rehabilitation measures, 22 per cent for law enforcement and criminal justice systems, 46 per cent for the reduction of drug production and 8 per cent for administrative, personnel and programme development costs. The Americas and Asia, regions where drug problems were acute, had continued to receive a very large share of resources (38.6 and 31.7 per cent, respectively). Even so, between 1990 and 1991 some readjustments had been made in the light of the evolving international drug abuse situation, and in 1991, Africa would receive 10.4 per cent of the resources as compared to 3.7 per cent in 1990. Regarding the project implementation rate, it had been higher in 1991 than during previous years. In fact, on 30 June 1991, total UNIDCP expenditures had amounted to $US 26.3 million as compared to $US 18.6 million on 30 June 1990. Moreover, 1991 expenditures would reach 80 per cent of the technical cooperation budget as compared to 62 per cent in 1990.

34. At its spring session in 1991 and in the resolutions subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council on its recommendation, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had demonstrated its determination to strengthen its role as a policy-making body in the international fight against drugs, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/179. At the same time, the integration of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board into the UNIDCP had required a re-examination of existing administrative arrangements between the Board and the Secretary-General. The new arrangements which he had concluded with the Board had already been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/48.

35. So far as the administrative framework of the new Programme was concerned, it had not been possible to consider and resolve all the arrangements made necessary by resolution 45/179. That was why, in addition to the measures mentioned in his report (A/46/480), the Secretary-General had

(Mr. Giacomelli)

proposed complementary administrative and financial arrangements in document A/C.5/46/23 with a view to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Programme. It was to be hoped that Member States would consider those proposals positively at the current session. He also hoped that the resources made available to the Programme under the regular budget would be adequate to enable the Programme to discharge effectively all the functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the sphere of drug abuse control - namely, control of supply, prevention of illicit trafficking, reduction of demand, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons.

36. Mr. SCHROEDER (President of the International Narcotics Control Board) said that the Board had, at its fiftieth session, adopted its report for 1991. The report would be available to Governments in early December and to the media in mid-January. It would be considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its April 1992 session and then transmitted to the Economic and Social Council.

37. The drug control situation throughout the world remained serious. Partly in reaction to strong measures taken by some Governments, the drug cartels were extending their activities to countries previously untouched by drug abuse. Furthermore, the political, economic and social changes taking place in many parts of the world were having an impact on drug trafficking and abuse; political and economic integration, as well as division into smaller political units, provided new opportunities for drug traffickers.

38. Illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse were sabotaging the efforts of developing countries to improve their economic and social situation. Marketing opportunities had to be made available to countries where drugs were illicitly produced so that the cultivation of narcotic crops could be replaced by other economic activities. The Board therefore welcomed the decision recently taken by the EEC to open its markets to some South American countries, and wished to encourage other countries to take similar steps.

39. Countries where illicit crops were produced should take advantage, in particular under the auspices of the United Nations, of new technologies for the detection of illicit cultivation as well as of the highly effective and environmentally safe herbicides now available.

40. During the past year the number of States parties to the three main drug control conventions had increased, national legislation in the sphere of drug control had been strengthened in many countries, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation had been more extensive than ever. For the international control system to operate effectively, all Governments had to become parties to the Conventions; action by Governments needed to be universal, or traffickers would simply shift their activities to countries where controls were lacking.

(Mr. Schroeder)

41. The Board recognized that drug abuse would eventually be eliminated only by continually reducing the demand for illicit drugs. In the foreseeable future, however, law enforcement would continue to play a vital role in protecting society against drug abuse. There was no simple solution to the problem. Legalization would only result in mushrooming abuse and consequential social problems. Neither was legalization a human rights issue; on the contrary, all individuals, and particularly children, had a right to be protected from drugs.

42. Effective control of drugs constituted a basic element in the world community's effort to prevent drug abuse. The international control system evolved over more than 65 years and consolidated in the 1961 Single Convention continued to operate satisfactorily; diversion from licit trade into illicit channels remained relatively rare despite the considerable number of transactions. Close monitoring by INCB should continue to ensure that that achievement was maintained. At present, the supply of opiate raw materials for medical needs and global licit consumption remained in approximate balance. In that connection, the Board reiterated its strong opposition to a proliferation of sources of supply. It also reiterated that to use coca leaf for the manufacture of products which contained coca alkaloids and to sell or export it for non-medical purposes was against the Convention.

43. Some important drug manufacturing and exporting countries, such as Austria, Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland, had still not become parties to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Moreover, since the control measures required under the Convention for a number of substances were not as strict as those provided under the 1961 Convention, diversion of those substances from licit commerce to the illicit traffic continued unabated. Large amounts of the stimulant pemoline manufactured in Europe had been diverted to illicit channels in West Africa in 1989 and 1990. At the same time, close day-to-day cooperation between the Board and Governments had also prevented the diversion of considerable quantities of psychotropic substances. When applied by Governments, the voluntary control measures recently recommended by the Board and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council would help importing countries to prevent diversions. Those countries could also insist upon the strict application of article 13 of the 1971 Convention.

44. To date, 49 States and the EEC had adhered to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances which placed new responsibilities upon the Board, particularly in respect of the control of precursors. The Board was also required to assess new substances for possible inclusion in the Convention. With regard to precursors, the Board welcomed the recent initiatives undertaken by a number of Governments to strengthen national and international controls, including the EEC regulation which required stricter measures than the Convention, and in particular advance notification of the export of precursors. A number of

(Mr. Schroeder)

countries and competent international bodies were currently working towards establishing linkage of international databases to prevent diversion of precursors.

45. Following a notification submitted by a State party in July 1991, the Board was going to assess 10 new substances for possible inclusion in the tables of the 1988 Convention. It would hold a special session in January 1992 to undertake that review and would then report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

46. The Board also undertook missions to countries which had difficulties in fulfilling their international treaty obligations or which were in process of establishing their own drug control systems. Missions had visited India, Mongolia and Pakistan and others were planned for Argentina, Australia and Viet Nam. Missions to Albania, Morocco and Myanmar were also envisaged.

47. Following the consolidation of the three former drug control units into a unified programme under the name United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Board and the Executive Director of UNIDCP had made arrangements to ensure the full technical independence of the Board. The Economic and Social Council had endorsed those arrangements in June 1991. It was to be hoped that arrangements between UNIDCP and United Nations Headquarters in New York would be finalized without delay to permit the smooth functioning of the Programme. Administrative formalities should be simplified and the Executive Director given adequate authority over such matters as personnel recruitment.

48. It was understandable that the Member States were seeking to limit expenditure by United Nations agencies. At the same time, however, they expected the Board and UNIDCP to increase their activities continually, a fact which reflected both the seriousness with which Governments viewed the problem and their confidence in the ability of the Board and UNIDCP to contribute to its solution. While restructuring should result in some economies, the tasks that the Board and UNIDCP were called upon to perform could not be carried out without substantial increases in regular budget funding.

AGENDA ITEM 95: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/46/L.14-L.17)

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.14

49. Miss MEHTA (India), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.14 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women. The draft resolution reaffirmed the important role of the Fund in contributing to an increase in opportunities and options for women in developing countries. It also drew attention to the socio-economic inequities harmful to the situation of women and to the effects on women of environmental degradation, particularly in developing countries. It was in that context that the true importance of UNIFEM activities could be seen, and that was why

(Miss Mehta, India)

the draft resolution called on donors to maintain their support for the Fund. She hoped the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote, as in previous years.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.15

50. Mr. KOTEY (Ghana), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.15 on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of 77, said that the sponsors proposed to insert a new paragraph after paragraph 7 to read:

> "Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that appropriate staff from the secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Commission on the Status of Women participate in the preparatory process of the 1993 Conference on Human Rights as well as in the Conference itself, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/108."

The remaining paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

51. He said that the starting point of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.15 had been the slowness with which the Nairobi Strategies were being implemented. Its aim was therefore to identify the obstacles and put forward recommendations aimed at speeding up the process. Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution reaffirmed the conclusions from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and paragraph 5 reaffirmed the central role played in that connection by the Commission on the Status of Women. Paragraph 6 requested the Commission to contribute to the forthcoming major international conferences, namely the 1992 World Conference on the Environment, the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Paragraph 14 emphasized the importance of the total integration of women in the development process and paragraph 15 stressed the need to redress socio-economic inequities which were hampering the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies. Paragraph 17 urged that particular attention be given by the United Nations and Governments to the situation of women with disabilities. Finally, Governments were requested to give priority to female candidates when presenting candidatures for vacancies in the United Nations Secretariat, particularly at the decision-making level.

52. He firmly believed that the draft resolution would secure the unanimous support of members of the Third Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.16

53. Mr. DANERI (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.16 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Cuba, India, Japan, Lesotho, Myanmar and Yugoslavia. The resolution reaffirmed the importance of the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the aim of which was to integrate women in development. It commended the Institute for its efforts in improving statistics on women, particularly in fields such as the environment and communications and with special reference to the situation of elderly women. It called on the Institute to continue its innovatory actions and its collaboration with research and training centres at the international, regional and national levels. Finally, it called on States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17

54. Mr. TROTTIER (Canada), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Algeria, Guyana, India, Liechtenstein, Myanmar and Yugoslavia, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat. He pointed out that the sponsors had amended the draft resolution by inserting between the seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs a new paragraph to read:

> "Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women in the Secretariat,".

55. He said that, although a certain amount of progress had been made, the situation of women in the United Nations Secretariat left much to be desired. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17 therefore reminded Member States of the commitments they were required to give pursuant to the Charter and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. It also recalled the goals set in General Assembly resolutions 45/125 and 45/239 C, to be achieved by 1995, of a 35 per cent overall participation rate of women in posts subject to geographic distribution and a 25 per cent participation rate of women in posts at the D-1 level and above. The draft resolution urged the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women and in particular to increase the number of women from developing countries, and it called on Member States to encourage women to apply for vacant posts and to create national rosters of women candidates to be circulated to United Nations bodies. Finally, the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate machinery was maintained, with the authority of enforcement and the responsibility of accountability, including a senior-level official devoted to implementation of the action programme for the advancement of women in the Secretariat for the period 1991-1995, and that a progress report was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session.

56. Mrs. DIALLO (Senegal) said that her delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.17.

57. The CHAIRMAN recalled the question raised at a previous meeting by the representative of Austria on behalf of the 20 sponsors of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/16. During consultations with the delegations concerned, he had been asked to address a letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee explaining the situation regarding the matter in question. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished him to write such a letter.

58. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at noon.